## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Study on the Progress of Literacy Among SC/ST Women

*382. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made country-wide study on the progress of literacy among SC/ST women;

(b) if so, when was the last study made;

(c) whether it is a fact that literacy rate has not improved substantially in the States like Orissa, Bihar and M.P.;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any special scheme is proposed to be implemented in those States to raise the literacy rate of SC/ST women; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Although no country-wide study ont he progress of literacy among SC/ST women has been made, data regarding the progress of literacy among SC/ST communities are collected and published by the Census Commissioner of India on the basis of Census operations conducted every ten years. The last Census operatiosn were undertaken in 1991.

(c) and (d) There has been substantial improvement in the rate of literacy in the Stats of Orissa Bihar and M.P., as shown in the statement attached (*See* below).

(e) and (f) In order to raise the literacy rate of SC/ST women, Government is implementing the following schemes:

(i) *Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of Women Literacy in Tribal Areas.*

Districts where literacy among ST women is less than 10% are covered under the scheme. A total 136 Districts in 11 States, *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal fall within the purview of the scheme. Full financial assistance is provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for setting up of such Educational Complexes.

(ii) *Ashram Schools on Tribal Sub-Plan Area*

The objective of the scheme is to extend educational facilities like establishmentof residential schools for Scheduled Tribes in an environment conducive to learning. The funding for the scheme with the States is done on matching (50:50) basis, while 100% Central assistance is given to U.Ts. The Central assistance under the scheme is mainly for construction of Ashram School buildings, hostels and staff quarters.

(iii) *Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes*

The scheme is an useful instrument for spreading education among ST girls. under the scheme, Central assistance is given to States/UTs. for construction of new hostel buildings and/or extension of existing hostel buildings. While in the case of States the cost of construction is equally shared between the Centre and the States, full assistance is given by the Central Government to UTs.

(iv) *Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the Welfare of STs.*

Under this scheme, grant-in-aid is given to Voluntary organisatiosn working for the welfare of STs for a wide spectrum of projects, including residential schools, hostels balwadis.

(v) *Special Educational Development Programme for Scheduled Caste Girls belonging to very low literacy level.*

The scheme was introduced during 1996-97 on pilot basis with a view to provide a package of educational inputs through residential schools for SC girls in areas of very low SC female literacy where traditions and environments are not conducive to their learning. The scheme is implemented by the Zila Parishads (district Level Panchayats). 48 Districts situated in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh where the percentage of literate SC girls is less than 2% as per 1981 census are eligible to take advantage of the scheme.

(vi) *Girls Hostels for Scheduled Castes*

The main objective of the scheme is to provide hostel facilities to SC girl students studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and Universities. under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to State Govenments on 50:50 matching share basis (100% to UTs) for construction of hostel buildings and other facilities.

(vii) *Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes*

Under this scheme, grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of SCs for various projects, including establishing schools and hostels to students belonging to SCs and for running balwadis and bal kendras.

**Statement**

*The literacy rates in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa (1961 to 1991 Census).*

| State | 1961 | | | 1971 | | | 1981 | | | 1991 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | General Population | SC | ST | General Population | SC | ST | General Population | SC | ST | General Population | SC | ST |
| 1. Bihar | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Persons | 18.40 | 5.95 | 9.16 | 19.94 | 6.53 | 11.64 | 26.20 | 10.40 | 16.99 | 38.48 | 19.49 | 26.78 |
| Males | 29.83 | 11.15 | 15.22 | 30.64 | 11.92 | 18.45 | 38.11 | 18.02 | 26.17 | 52.49 | 30.64 | 38.40 |
| Females | 6.90 | 0.92 | 3.18 | 8.72 | 1.03 | 4.85 | 13.62 | 2.51 | 7.75 | 22.89 | 7.07 | 14.75 |
| 3. Madhya Pradesh | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Persons | 17.13 | 7.89 | 5.10 | 22.14 | 12.49 | 7.62 | 27.87 | 18.97 | 10.68 | 44.20 | 35.08 | 21.54 |
| Males | 27.03 | 14.27 | 9.25 | 32.70 | 20.58 | 13.05 | 39.49 | 30.26 | 17.74 | 58.42 | 50.51 | 32.16 |
| Females | 6.73 | 1.33 | 0.97 | 10.92 | 3.88 | 2.18 | 15.53 | 6.87 | 3.60 | 28.85 | 18.11 | 10.73 |
| 3. Orissa | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Persons | 21.66 | 11.57 | 7.36 | 26.18 | 15.61 | 9.46 | 34.23 | 22.41 | 13.96 | 49.09 | 36.78 | 22.31 |
| Males | 34.68 | 19.82 | 13.04 | 38.29 | 25.98 | 16.38 | 47.10 | 35.26 | 23.27 | 63.09 | 52.42 | 34.44 |
| Females | 8.65 | 3.44 | 1.77 | 13.92 | 5.17 | 2.58 | 21.12 | 9.40 | 4.76 | 34.68 | 20.74 | 10.21 |